

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce

30 Main Street
Chester, MT 59522
(406) 759-4848
www.libertycountyc.com

Job Service Workforce Center

Have Job Service Workforce Center

160 First Avenue
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 265-5847
Toll Free: (866)-288-9642
Fax: (406) 265-1386
http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/havre

E-mail: lctimes@3rivers.net
http://highline.townnews.com

Liberty County Times

Liberty County Times

46 First Street East
P. O. Box 689
Chester, MT 59522
Ph: (406) 759-5355

Newspaper

MSU Extension Service-Liberty County

Economic Development

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce

30 Main Street
Chester, MT 59522-0607
Ph: (406) 759-5625
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jmaatta@montana.edu

Resources for Liberty County

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program
?www.visitm.com/categories/City.asp?City=LOTHAIR&siteID=1
?www.comhemontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=liberty_county

Liberty County

Liberty County is located on Montana's Hi-Line between Hill and Toole Counties, and borders Canada to the north and Choteau County to the south. The Sweet Grass Hills line the north side of the county, while the south is marked by the Tiber Dam on the Marias River. A large portion of Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) lies within Liberty County, and provides boating, camping, and fishing opportunities to visitors. The area offers 178 miles of shoreline, a marina, and five boat ramps at various points around the lake.² Other area attractions include the Liberty County Museum and the Liberty Village Arts Center, both located in Chester. Chester also boasts the Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, the only medical facility in a 40 mile radius.³

Liberty County is Montana's forty-fifth most populous county, with an estimated 2,003 residents in 2005. Chester, the county seat, is the state's sixty-sixth largest town, with a population estimated at 811 in 2005.¹ Other towns in Liberty County include Joplin, Lothair, and Whitlash.

Population for Liberty County & Related Areas

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Montana	902,195	906,098	910,395	917,885	926,920	935,670
Liberty County	2,158	2,102	2,019	2,042	2,035	2,003
Chester	871	849	817	826	824	811
Balance of Liberty County	1,287	1,253	1,202	1,216	1,211	1,192

Distribution of Population by Age

Montana and Liberty County, 2005

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Age	Montana	Liberty County
0-4	4.2%	4.5%
5-9	4.1%	4.3%
10-14	4.0%	4.2%
15-19	3.9%	4.1%
20-24	3.8%	4.0%
25-29	3.7%	3.9%
30-34	3.6%	3.8%
35-39	3.5%	3.7%
40-44	3.4%	3.6%
45-49	3.3%	3.5%
50-54	3.2%	3.4%
55-59	3.1%	3.3%
60-64	3.0%	3.2%
65-69	2.9%	3.1%
70-74	2.8%	3.0%
75-79	2.7%	2.9%
80-84	2.6%	2.8%
85+	2.5%	2.7%

Educational Attainment

Liberty County

Montana

U.S.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Education Level	Liberty County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	25.0%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	25.0%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	26.7%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.6%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	14.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	1.8%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.0%	0.9%	1.0%

Demographic & Economic Information for

Liberty County

Photo courtesy of Big Sky Fishing.com

Liberty County

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
E-mail: webmasterrad@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactyourfuture.org

Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Year	U.S.	Montana	Liberty County
1990	\$35,500	\$26,500	\$21,500
1991	\$35,800	\$26,800	\$21,800
1992	\$36,100	\$27,100	\$22,100
1993	\$36,400	\$27,400	\$22,400
1994	\$36,700	\$27,700	\$22,700
1995	\$37,000	\$28,000	\$23,000
1996	\$37,300	\$28,300	\$23,300
1997	\$37,600	\$28,600	\$23,600
1998	\$37,900	\$28,900	\$23,900
1999	\$38,200	\$29,200	\$24,200
2000	\$38,500	\$29,500	\$24,500
2001	\$38,800	\$29,800	\$24,800
2002	\$39,100	\$30,100	\$25,100
2003	\$39,400	\$30,400	\$25,400
2004	\$39,700	\$30,700	\$25,700
2005	\$40,000	\$31,000	\$26,000

2005 Annual Average Wages:
United States: \$40,671
Montana: \$29,157
Liberty County: \$25,320

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)

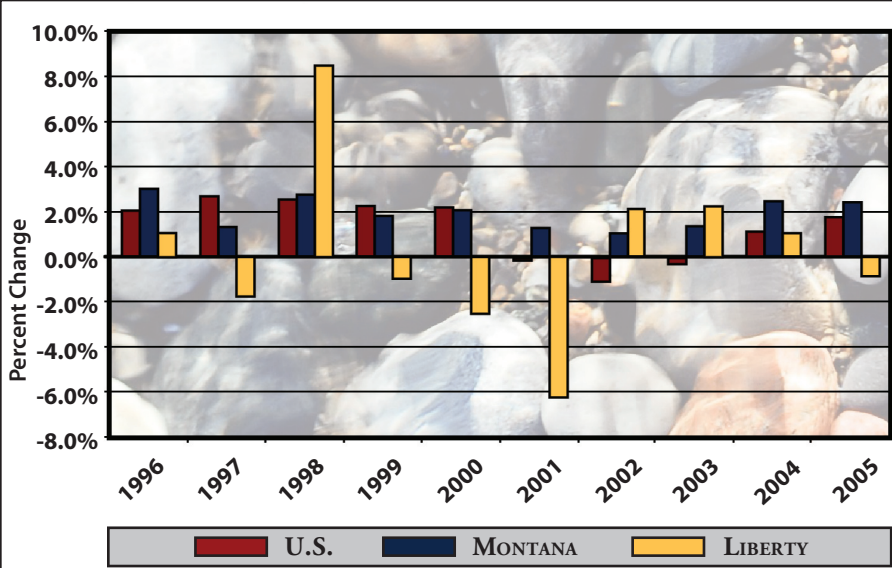
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

Year	U.S.	Montana	Liberty County
1990	\$29,000	\$23,000	\$31,000
1991	\$28,500	\$23,500	\$30,500
1992	\$28,000	\$24,000	\$29,000
1993	\$28,500	\$24,500	\$36,000
1994	\$29,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
1995	\$29,500	\$25,500	\$27,000
1996	\$30,000	\$26,000	\$24,000
1997	\$30,500	\$26,500	\$25,000
1998	\$31,000	\$27,000	\$26,000
1999	\$31,500	\$27,500	\$27,000
2000	\$32,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
2001	\$32,500	\$28,500	\$27,000
2002	\$33,000	\$29,000	\$28,000
2003	\$33,500	\$29,500	\$29,000
2004	\$34,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

2004 Per Capita Personal Income:
United States: \$33,050
Montana: \$27,657
Liberty County: \$26,880

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Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005
U.S., Montana, and Liberty County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 10 Private Employers in Liberty County
(Based on 2nd Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Jerry Martin, DDS	2	Mike’s Thriftway Conoco Travel Center	4
Liberty County Hospital	6	Miller Auto Repair	2
Liberty Drug	2	Spud’s Café	2
Liberty Electric	5	Superior Feeds	2
Meissner Ranches	3	Sweet Grass Lodge	2

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999, Class 7 = 250 to 499, Class 6 = 100 to 249, Class 5 = 50 to 99, Class 4 = 20 to 49, Class 3 = 10 to 19, Class 2 = 5 to 9

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Liberty County

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	93	584	\$25,326
TOTAL PRIVATE	73	425	\$25,510
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	8	32	\$26,048
Crop production	3	10	\$33,766
Animal production	2	*	*
Agriculture & forestry support	3	*	*
MINING	1	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	4	*	*
Construction of buildings	2	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	2	*	*
MANUFACTURING	2	*	*
Food manufacturing	1	*	*
Machinery manufacturing	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	4	7	\$25,395
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	1	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	13	59	\$14,537
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	3	6	\$13,757
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	3	37	\$12,582
Health and personal care stores	2	*	*
Gasoline stations	1	*	*
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	1	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	2	*	*
Truck transportation	1	*	*
Transit and ground passenger transport	1	*	*
INFORMATION	1	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	6	17	\$42,058
Credit intermediation & related activity	2	*	*

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)
* Data Not Disclosable

Agricultural Statistics - Liberty County

Farms	
Farms: (number)	297
Land in farms (acres)	905,171
Average size of farms (acres)	3,048
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	78
1,000 acres or more	219
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	224
\$100,000 or more	73
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	195
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	102

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested	
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	13,026
Hogs and pigs	15,364
Sheep and lambs	22
Horses and ponies	283
Bison	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	37,305
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	(D)
Corn for silage or greenchop	(D)
Wheat for grain, All	251,636
Winter wheat for grain	3,539
Durum wheat for grain	3,693
Spring wheat for grain	244,404
Barley for grain	22,357
Oats for grain	(D)
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, haylage, grass silage	16,943

Operator Demographics	
Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	269
Other	28
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	230
Not on farm operated	67
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	35
10 years or more	262
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	145
55 years and over	152
Average age of operators: (number)	56.6

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	3	6	\$29,693
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	4	7	\$12,729
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	3	*	*
Ambulatory health care services	2	*	*
Hospitals	1	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	5	9	\$11,996
Performing arts and spectator sports	1	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	2	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	6	21	\$6,783
Accommodation	1	*	*
Food services and drinking places	5	*	*
OTHER SERVICES	10	22	\$13,375
Repair and maintenance	3	5	\$26,371
Personal and laundry services	1	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	5	16	\$7,751
Private households	1	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	19	159	\$24,834
Local Government	8	130	\$22,637
State Government	4	4	\$32,465
Federal Government	8	25	\$34,933

Annual Average Labor Force - Liberty County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2005	902	862	40	4.4%
2004	888	853	35	3.9%
2003	850	817	33	3.9%
2002	837	803	34	4.1%
2001	858	824	34	4.0%
2000	962	923	39	4.1%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)